Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Discussion of the Prior art~~ Background of the Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Summary of the ~~invention~~ Invention

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

Brief Description of the ~~drawings~~ Drawings

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

At first embodiment of the bio-compatible delivery means 110 of the present invention is shown in Figure 2 and similarly comprises a bio-compatible biodegradable carrier 112 having a bio-active agent 114 ~~14~~ attached thereto. The carrier 112 having the agent 114 is further enclosed within a bio-compatible biodegradable enclosing means, such as an envelope 120, which is peripherally sealed at edge 126. This first embodiment of the delivery means 110 releases the bio-active agent 114 when the patient's body fluids degrade the envelope 120. The envelope 120 may further have micropores 132, such as perforations, of predetermined size.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

A second embodiment of the bio-compatible delivery means 210 of the present invention, shown in Figure 3, similarly comprises a bio-compatible biodegradable carrier 212 having a bio-active agent 214 ~~14~~ attached thereto and both being enclosed within a bio-compatible biodegradable enveloping means, such as an envelope 220, which includes micropores 232, such as perforations, of predetermined size. The envelope 220 has located on at least one outer surface thereof, preferably on both outer surfaces, a further layer of bio-compatible biodegradable carrier 242, which is similar to the inner layer 212, but is not bonded to any bio-active agent 214. All layers are preferably sealed together peripherally, for example, by heat sealing at edge 226. This embodiment suitably utilizes an envelope made of PLA, PGA, or copolymers thereof.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

A stock solution is prepared by dissolving Bupivacaine (Marcaine®) free base in a 60/40 aq. iso-propyl alcohol (IPA) solvent, until a clear solution is obtained, such that the final concentration is about 5%. A 1g piece of pre-washed Nu-Knit fabric (which, as ~~know~~ is known to those having skill in the art, is bio-compatible and bio-degradable) is soaked with 2.5 ml of this stock solution. Nu-Knit is commercially available from Ethicon, of Somerville, New Jersey. The wet piece of Nu-Knit fabric is

then placed in a pre-heated oven at 50°C for 1 hour. It is then stored under a continuous flow of dry nitrogen gas. This drug-loaded fabric is designated NKD1

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the procedures of Example 1, there may be prepared composites of the structure of NKD2 and/or NKD3, wherein the perforations are microporous perforations in the range of 0.01-100 microns in diameter. In additional, in place of bupivacaine, there may be utilized any tissue compatible bio-active agent, including, but not limited to, analgesics, antibiotics, antimicrobials, antivirals, antiinflamatory agents, anticholinergics, antidepressants, antihistamines, antidiabetics, anticonvulsants, ~~antimigranes~~ antimigraines, antineoplastics, ~~antimalerials~~ antimalarials, ~~immunisuppressants~~ immunosuppressants, cardiovascular drugs, anti-adhesive agents, vasoconstrictors, growth factors (PDGF), and hemostatic agents, suitably, gentamicin, ofloxacin, silver, verapamil miconazole, ketoconazole, taxol, vincristine and vinblastine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

More particularly, for example, the water bath is pre-heated to 37°C. Test samples of the ORC-Marcaine are cut into small pieces and the samples (in the range of 0.05g - 01g) are weighed and placed in labeled vials. The desired amount of buffer (e.g., 100, 50, 25 or 10 times, by weight, of the test sample) is added. For terminal samples, sufficient sodium bicarbonate is added to make a 0.15 M solution. The vials

are placed in the pre-heated water bath for the desired period of time (approximately 10 min-120 hours).